

ABSTRACT

A peer-to-peer system includes a destination node operable to receive a query. The destination node receives samples from a first set of nodes proximally located to the

destination node in an overlay network for the peer-to-peer system. The samples are

- 5 associated with information stored at the proximally located nodes. The destination node is operable to identify, based on the samples received from the first set of nodes, a first node of the first set of nodes likely storing information associated with objects stored in the peer-to-peer system that are relevant to the query.